



Office of the Mayor-President

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MELVIN L. "KIP" HOLDEN
Mayor-President

March 11, 2011

Via Electronic Filing
Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Baton Rouge, LA petition to deploy a 700MHz public safety broadband network, PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Honorable Genachowski:

We appreciate the ongoing efforts of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in support of public safety communications under your leadership. The FCC's National Broadband Plan makes great strides towards addressing public safety's needs and recent progress in establishing the Emergency Response Interoperability Center (ERIC) membership makes necessary steps towards achieving the plan's goals. However, we want to call your attention to several important and urgent items pending before the Commission and request your support in resolving them as quickly as possible.

As you know, our State, New Orleans and Baton Rouge submitted waiver requests in July of 2010 to allow us to deploy public safety wireless broadband networks in areas of the nation recently hit by catastrophic hurricanes. We feel an overwhelming sense of urgency to explore every possible upgrade to our first responders' communications systems in advance of hurricane season (June 1, 2011). We were very encouraged when the Commission recently released the pending waivers for comment in November and were equally encouraged when there was overwhelming support for their approval by the vast majority of respondents. Please note the attached "Letter of Collaboration" from the State, New Orleans and Baton Rouge submitted in response to the Commission's request for comments. Unfortunately our waiver has not been approved. We note that the Commission approved 21 waiver requests earlier in 2010 and there are no material differences between those requests and ours.

Further, we understand that concerns remain over funding to deploy our network. Our City, like all others throughout our great nation are experiencing funding short falls, but your plan accounts for this by calling for diverse build models such as leveraging

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commercial carrier infrastructures, and public/private partnerships. While these models may not result in total network build out, they can pave the way for comprehensive network build out once federal funding has been provided. Baton Rouge, LA has immediate plans to procure the first phase of our 700MHz wireless broadband network and we strongly urge the Commission to approve our Request for a Waiver.

We are designing our network plans consistent with the Commission's National Broadband Plan and desire to start to strengthen our public safety communications systems in advance of the forth coming hurricane season. In Baton Rouge, we do not plan for "if a major storm will occur", we plan for "when a major storm will occur". Please make every effort to advance our waiver request as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of improved public safety communications. With your help and the timely response of the Commission, we will succeed at building better networks that can be counted on to save our citizens.

Respectfully submitted,



John Carpenter
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

cc: FCC Commissioners
cc: FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau



October 13, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch

Secretary

Federal Communications Commission

445 12th Street, S.W.

Washington, DC 20554

Re: Response to Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's request for comment on petitions for waiver to deploy 700MHz public safety broadband networks, PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Ms. Dortch:

In response to the Commission's request for comment on the New Orleans UASI region, the State of Louisiana and the City-Parish of Baton Rouge, LA's waiver petitions to deploy 700MHz public safety broadband wireless networks, we the undersigned submit our "statement of collaboration". Whereas, we have met and determined that each organization represented in this communication desires to provide next generation, seamlessly interoperable communications to our first responders, and we recognize the FCC's preference for waivers at the State-level. While we support the FCC's goal, we each have decided to continue to pursue our individual waiver petitions. However, we all agree to the following statement of collaboration which forms the basis for our future planning:

"New Orleans UASI region, the State of Louisiana and the City-Parish of Baton Rouge, LA agree to work together to achieve an efficient technical and



operational 700MHz broadband network and program design. We have met and will continue to meet to accomplish our collective goals of providing our first responders with the best available next generation broadband communications.

~~To that end, the New Orleans USAI region, the State of Louisiana and the City~~
Parish of Baton Rouge, LA continue to request individual waivers, but we will work collaboratively in the future and where possible and if all parties agree, Baton Rouge, LA and the New Orleans USAI region will leverage spectrum usage agreements with the State to gain future authorizations to deploy 700MHz broadband wireless networks in the State of Louisiana”.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Sneed
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Brant Mitchell
Chairman, Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee
7667 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

John Carpenter
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Baton Rouge, Louisiana